

COLUMBUS NOTES

Miss Emma Andeworth arrived here last Saturday for a visit with her sister, Mrs. J. F. White.

E. R. Geiler and daughter Clara, went to El Paso Sunday where Mr. Geiler is assisting the firm of Heilberg & Blair in their office.

R. E. Horton, section foreman for the railroad company at this place, returned home last week from California, where he has been spending his vacation.

James L. Walker this week received a letter announcing the death of his nephew, Robert Walker at Austin, Texas, on last Sunday. He did not learn the particulars.

John H. Willis, a business partner of Dr. Fraser of the camp here was in town last week on his way to California where he and Dr. Fraser have a large chicken ranch.

There has been an extra force of about one hundred men working on the track here near the station this week, raising the track several inches which has sagged considerably.

J. M. Greenwood left last week for Ramona, Oklahoma, after a few weeks' visit here with his uncle, J. L. Greenwood.

A horse belonging to E. R. Geiler, which was in pasture on W. C. Hoover's place south of town, was stolen some time during the day last Tuesday.

Mrs. Mary Aldrich and William Payne of Bisbee, Arizona, made homestead entries this week for valley land.

R. F. Anderson of El Paso, was in Columbus a few days last week and the first of this week in the interest of the Benevolent Order of Bees. Mr. Anderson contemplates organizing a hive at this place and at present has secured more than half the necessary number of members to get a charter.

The camping party that went into the Florida mountains for a week's outing and the enjoyment of camp life returned to their homes last Wednesday after having thoroughly enjoyed the time spent in the mountains. The members of the party were Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Dean and son Edwin, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Beck, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Lewis and daughters Mellicent and Madge.

Miss Cornelia B. Otis and her aunt Miss Beardslee, who have lived here for many months, will leave for Dundee, N. Y., where they expect to make their home. We are very sorry indeed to lose these good people, but if they think it is for the best, we wish them success.

J. A. Arner had the first load of watermelons of the season in town last Saturday. Mr. Arner and many others have been selling watermelons for several days but this was the first wagon load that has been hauled in. Mr. Arner says if conditions remain favorable he will have a large crop of melons, and they sure are something good.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Edmonds, who have made Columbus their home for over a year, left Thursday morning for their old home in the Animas Valley in Grant county. Mr. Edmonds was in business here for a year and made many acquaintances who regret his departure.

Lieutenant and Mrs. West were passengers on the Golden State Limited Wednesday, bound for Fort Riley, Kansas, where Lieutenant West will enter the mounted service school.

Miss Mary Field Page, who has been attending the summer school for teachers at Silver City, returned home last Saturday after a two months' leave. Miss Page was the victim of a very serious accident a short time before she left for home. She fell, injuring the ankle bone, and has to go about on crutches. We hope the injured limb will be well again in a few days. Miss Page is a fervent worker in the church here and has been greatly missed during her two months' absence. Her many friends are pleased to learn that she has returned.

B. M. Reed last Saturday morning sold \$125 worth of lots in the Rice addition to the highest bidder. L. F. Ryan bought the lots and the money was used in erecting a tank at the public well in the Rice addition so that the people who reside in that section can run water to their homes. The lots were donated by George H. Rice. This part of town is fast becoming the main residence section of Columbus.

Travel over the Deming-Columbus road shows that a great deal of damage has been done by the recent rains. While not made impassable, the road is badly cut up where the water has flowed across, making a large amount of work necessary before the road can again be put in good condition.

Mrs. R. W. Elliott and little son Roy arrived here last week from Joplin, Mo., after having spent several months at that place visiting with relatives and friends. They say that they had a very enjoyable trip.

"THE EARTH" PUBLISHED ARTICLE ON THIS VALLEY

The following article appeared in "The Earth," the Santa Fe Railroad company's agricultural publication from an anonymous contributor:

The optimists of Deming and surrounding region, in Luna county, New Mexico, who have been boasting of the great volume of underground water in their district, must be vastly gratified by the favorable report of the government geologist, N. D. Darton. His investigations have been so extensive that they afford authoritative figures for most parts of that region, and they justify fully the claim, that there is water available for the irrigation of a very large area. A great advantage in Luna county is that it is not necessary to sink expensive deep wells, for there is a great natural reservoir only a short distance below the surface.

About 400 square miles are underlain by water-bearing beds which may be pumped profitably. The depths vary somewhat, but the map prepared by the government expert renders it reasonably safe to prophesy the approximate depth to which one will need to go for water at a given place. Deming probably is the first town in the Santa Fe Southwest to have such data concentrated and rendered available for prospective settlers. In many communities, the family well for household use is sunk with some trepidation; but in the Deming district, one may now sink wells for ranch, and irrigation with great confidence.

For a long time, the popular idea concerning the wells has been that they tapped an underflow from the Mimbres river which usually sinks into the gravel and sands of the desert northwest of Deming. The scientific evidence rejects this and gives the rainfall of Luna county the major credit for maintaining so admirable a reservoir.

The volume of water in these underground beds varies somewhat but in a wide district around Deming, and extending southward to beyond Waterloo, eastward to Carna, and northward to Spalding, the quantity of water underground is from six to eight cubic feet per square foot of surface—that is, it averages eight acre-feet per acre. This quantity of water, properly used for the production of crops, ought to bring a rich return to settlers.

One of the most important things to consider is the cost of pumping. This has been diminished greatly by the increased efficiency of engines; especially those using the cheaper fuels, as the heavier distillates and crude oil itself. In many of the wells around Deming using thirty inches of water for irrigation in the season, and having to lift the water from forty to fifty feet, the cost of fuel has varied from \$1.20 to \$2 per acre-foot in most cases, while with crude oil engines used in somewhat deeper wells, the rate is only half as much. Electricity supplied from a central generator at Deming competes favorably with engines using direct fuel; but later when the government is obtaining cheap power from the great dam at Elephant Butte, electricity may be obtained still more cheaply, if there be sufficient inducement to warrant extending a wire from the Rio Grande.

Only a small proportion of this underground water now is pumped out. Two popular crops at present are alfalfa and beans. The former, cut many times the year, requires water only twice for a crop; while beans and similar plants are watered three times during the four months of the season.

Conditions of climate are most satisfactory. Far enough south to be always mild, it has an altitude of more than 4,000 feet, so that the heat is dry and not oppressive and the nights cool. The region has excellent railway facilities for the outlet of its products to ready markets east and west. All these advantages long have been known and now that the very essential supply of water has been found to be so favorable for wider irrigation, much may be expected of Luna county within the next few years. It needs only a sight of the lovely green oasis which have sprung up around the pumps to convince one of the great value of that underground reservoir which has held its riches so long in readiness for the industrious and foresighted.

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